

Submitter: Starlyn Webb
On Behalf Of: Cascades Academys Eco Club
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Starlyn Webb, and I am an 8th grade student from Bend, Oregon, submitting this testimony on behalf of Cascades Academy's Eco Club in support of HB 4134.

As a student, I am very concerned about climate change and the future that my generation is inheriting. We are the ones who will live with the long term consequences of the decisions made today. Increasing the state transient lodging tax is a simple way to raise revenue from tourism while also helping fund programs that protect Oregon's natural resources and communities.

Bend and other parts of Oregon rely heavily on tourism, and visitors come here because of our forests, rivers, mountains, and outdoor spaces. Not only do tourists use our wildlife, but so do us kids! We play outdoor sports, like soccer and rock climbing, we go on walks and swim in our rivers. And if we want to continue enjoying the rest of our childhood, and adulthood, we need to invest in protecting these environments! A small increase in the lodging tax places responsibility on those who benefit from visiting our state, while helping fund solutions that address climate impacts and infrastructure needs. And even after the tax, we still have the lowest lodging tax rate!

As a teenager, I don't have a vote yet, but I do have a voice. I urge you to consider the long term future of Oregon and support HB 4134. My generation is counting on leaders to make thoughtful, forward looking decisions.

Thank you for your time and consideration.